

suddenly crumble by the foundation; and if the foundation even should be solid, we know not but that a thunderbolt may, despite our every effort, descend from above, and reduce the entire structure to ashes. In a word, to speak plainly and without figure, the mishaps and dangers that threaten man here below penetrate by too many pores to be always foreseen and successfully guarded against throughout life. There is nothing upon earth on which we are accustomed to rely, friends, children, health, dignities, employments, but that can at some time not only fail us, but even turn against us and become a source of bitter anguish; and we should indeed be novices in the history of human life were it still necessary to demonstrate for our conviction a truth in itself so patent."

Behold in what manner Bossuet depicted in the presence of Louis the Great, misery of the worlds happiness. He had found the earth so poor because he was after contemplating the happiness of the elect! Like the sight, which when suddenly transferred from the vision of the glaring, brilliant sun, to the surrounding objects of nature imagines all else to be enveloped in an impenetrable haze, approaching on dense darkness.

Since, then, the Church in the solemnity of all saints desires to excite in the hearts of its children an ardent longing for heaven, it is but meet, on such a day, to create a loathing for this abode of banishment, for never do we cherish so fondly the fatherland as when we experience the bitterness of exile.

Before establishing this feast common to *all the saints*, there were others for the different orders of the inhabitants of heaven, whether according to the rank they now hold in the realms of eternal bliss, or following the condition of life in which they had been here on earth.

Thus the Eastern Church celebrates even still the feast of *all Saints of the Old Testament*, that is to say, of all the just who preceeded the coming of the Messiah. The office is said on the Sunday before Christmas.

That of *all the Apostles* was for a long period celebrated on